

Message Text

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56

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 CG-00

DOT-00 PRS-01 PA-02 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 OES-06 DODE-00 /040 W

----- 020370

O R 261622Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4577

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3655

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CS

SUBJECT: REPORT OF BOAT LOST AT SEA WITH FIVE US CITIS ABOARD

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED REPORT ON JULY 21 THAT A "8 FOOT SINGLE MASTED, WHITE, DOUBLE ENDED YACHT KNOWN AS THE QUOTE TWINKIE UNQUOTE WITH FIVE US CITIS ABOARD WAS LOST AT SEA OFF THE NORTHWEST COAST OF COSTA RICA. VESSEL REPORTEDLY DEPARTED PLAYAS DE COCO AT MIDDAY OF JULY 16 DESTINED TO POTRERO GRANDE ON OTHER SIDE OF GULF OF PAPAGAYO AND WAS TO RETURN TO COCO NO LATER THAN JULY 19. ON MORNING JULY 21 COASTAL AREA BETWEEN COCO AND POTRERO GRANDE WAS SEARCHED IN PRIVATELY OWNED AIRPLANE BELONGING TO US CIT RESIDENT OF AREA BUT NO TRACE OF BOAT OR PASSENGERS FOUND.

2. ON AFTERNOON JULY 21 EMBASSY REQUESTED US SOUTHCOM RESCUE CONTROL CENTER PANAMA CANAL ZONE INITIATE SEARCH OF AREA. SEARCH WAS DONE FOLLOWING DAY VIA ONE C-130 WHICH SPENT SIX HOURS IN AIR OVER ZONE WHERE BOAT REPORTED LOST. SEARCH CONTINUED ON JULY 23 BUT NOTHING FOUND. TWO PLANES WERE SENT OUT OVER AREA ON JUL G 24, JULY 25 AND ARE CONTINUING THE SEARCH TODAY, JULY 26. NOTHING HAS BEEN SIGHTED THUS FAR. DECISION TO CONTINUE SEARCH TOMORROW WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BE MADE LATE TODAY.

3. TWINKIE REPORTEDLY OWNED BY US CIT JERRY MILLSAP AND REGISTERED IN CALIFORNIA. FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE REPORTED TO BE ON BOARD:

1. MARK JENNINGS, AGE 14;

2. DAVID RUSSELL, AGE ABOUT 28, RESIDENT OF COCO, SAID TO BE FROM CALIFORNIA;

3. ROBERT HAID, TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD;

4. NEIL NIELSEN, ABOUT 26, FROM FLORIDA, TELEPHONE 305-664-4794 OR 4911;

5. JOANNE TENNEA, FROM NEW YORK, 19 OR 20 YEARS OLD; HOME TELEPHONE 212 468-0639.

ALL ABOVE ARE REPORTED TO BE US CITs. NO FURTHER INFORMATION RE PERSONAL DATA AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. THE PARENTS OF NIELSEN, TENNEA AND HAID INFORMED OF ABOVE. FATHER OF MARK JENNINGS AT COCO AND IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH EMBASSY.

4. JENNINGS FATHER SAYS THAT TWINKIE IS STURDY BOAT AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD STILL AFLOAT ALTHOUGH MAST PROBABLY BROKEN BY VERY HIGH WINDS IN GULF OF PAPAGAYO AND BOAT MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED FROM 200 TO 300 MILES OUT TO SEA. BOAT HAS NO AUXILIARY POWER. IT WAS CARRYING 10 GALLONS FRESH WATER, FOUR POUNDS BEANS, FOUR POUNDS RICE, AND TWO QUARTS HONEY WHEN IT DEPARTED COCO. NIELSEN SAID TO BE PROFESSIONAL FISHERMAN WITH FISHING GEAR ON BOARD AND VERY GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF SEA. MR. JENNINGS FEELS BOAT PROBABLY DRIFTING NORTH TOWARD NICARAGUA. US-SOUTHCOS HAS PUT OUT RADIO ALERT TO ALL SHIPS IN AREA.

ABOVE INFORMATION BEING SUPPLIED FOR DEPARTMENTS INFORMATION SHOULD IT RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM INTERESTED UNCLASSIFIED

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US PARTIES. MORE INFO WILL BE FORWARDED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO03655
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760287-0066
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760721/aaaaasme.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <15 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF BOAT LOST AT SEA WITH FIVE US CITS ABOARD
TAGS: CASC, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006